JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Dead Sea Scrolls to appear in Mobile

ED SINCE 1877

VOL. 128 No. 32 NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile has been selected by the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) to host the traveling Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit January 20 to April 24, 2005.

With assistance from New Orleans Seminary, the Exploreum will display 12 authentic Dead Sea scrolls on loan from the IAA. "These are the oldest surviving texts of the Bible... the oldest Bible we have," said Steven Ortiz, director of the Center of Archaeological Research at NOBTS.

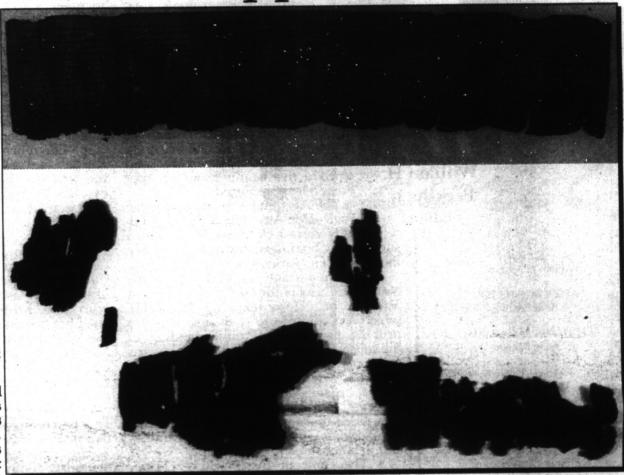
"The Dead Sea Scrolls contain excerpts of all the Old Testament books except Esther. Many people don't have the opportunity to go to Israel to view the actual scrolls, and now they are going to be right here in our own backyard," Ortiz said. "It is a unique opportunity for Christians."

The exhibit includes seven

The exhibit includes seven 2,000-year-old biblical scrolls with the oldest surviving text of Genesis, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. The remaining fragments are from sectarian documents found at the Qumran site in Israel. One of 29 Deuteronomy fragments found at Qumran — the one that will be displayed in Mobile — is the only one to include all Ten Commandments.

The scrolls, discovered near the Dead Sea by a shepherd boy in 1947, represent the most important find in the history of biblical archaeology. Excavations at the site uncovered 100,000 scroll fragments stored in clay jars in a desert cave. The discovery and resulting research has confirmed and helped insure the reliability of the Old Testament text found in modern translations of the Bible.

"This event is phenomenal because people can go to the exhibit, look at the



BIBLICAL ARTIFACTS — The Dead Sea Scroll fragments 11Q5 Psalms (top) and 4Q54 Isaiah will be displayed in Mobile on January 20-April 24, 2005. (BP Photo courtesy of the Israel Antiquities Authority)

scrolls and their English translations; then pick up their Bible and compare the texts.... [T]his brings our Bible back to the time of Jesus," Ortiz said. "In fact, one of the scroll fragments [Isaiah] is contemporary with the scroll Jesus read from in the Nazareth synagogue where He preached His first sermon [Luke 4:16f]."

The pieces for display in Mobile range

The pieces for display in Mobile range in size from small one-inch fragments to a 39-inch-long excerpt from Psalms. Each

fragment includes legible, Hebrew text.
"The exhibit provides a unique opportunity to highlight the potential we have for the [NOBTS] center," Ortiz said.

For more information about the Center for Archaeological Research or to contact Ortiz for speaking engagements, call (504) 282-4455, ext. 3249, or e-mail sortiz@nobts.edu. The center's website is www.nobts.edu/academics/Archaeolog ical%20Center.shtm.

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Gifts to the work of the Lord that the work of the West of the

Another institution falls

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK





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Although the debates on many important moral and social issues are routinely swept under the rug these days by Big Media, the lack of attention paid to one of the most farreaching stories of the past few weeks borders on nothing less than malfeasance. A national political convention and fresh attacks in Iraq were no excuses for failing to inform the American public about the monumental capitulation of the American Psychological Association (APA) to backroom politics and professional intimidation in approving of same-sex marriage.

ion in approving of same-sex marriage.

"Prohibiting civil marriage for same-sex couples is discriminatory and unfairly denies couples, their children and other members of their families the legal, financial, and social advantages of civil marriage," according to a resolution passed July 28 by the APA Council of Representatives during their annual meeting at a posh resort in Hawaii. "The APA also opposed discrimination against lesbian or gay parents adoption, child custody and visitation, foster care, and reproductive health issues," a later press release reported.

The APA thus joins the American

Psychiatric Association in the politically correct cleansing of all stigma surrounding homosexuality and the practice thereof in all its various forms. What a pity.

What an outrage, as detailed by the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH), which according to its web site seeks "to provide psychological understanding of the cause, treatment and behavior patterns associated with homosexuality, within the boundaries of a civil public dialogue."

The organization offers the following observations about the APA-appointed committee that formulated the resolution, the Working Group on Same-Sex Families and Relationships:

 The chair of the Working Group, Armand Cerbone, was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2003. He has also received an award for distinguished service to the homosexual movement by the Society for the

The Western Front was the last line of defense dur-

ing World War I. The forces of

good stood against the forces of

evil. If the Western Front failed,

all Europe would fall to the

German war machine. A period

of quiet on the Western Front

Israel/Palestine. Are we the

last Western Front? As God's

people, we stand against Satan for the very life of our

nation. Just as World War I

battles were lost across Europe before the last stand

at the Western Front, so have

Satan attacked our schools?

Were we convinced one

woman could not force prayer

Satan struck and now count-

less unborn babies are slaugh-

tered on our soil every day?

Were we so comfortable in

our churches that we believed

our courts would do the right

Where were we when

from our schools? We lost!

Where were we when

Geographically, we stand

west

meant calm before the storm.

the

we suffered defeats.

Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues, which is a division of APA focusing on homosexual issues.

• Working Group member Beverly Green served as editor of Psychological Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Issues, published by Sage Publications in 2000.

 Working Group member Kristin Hancock developed the APA's Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients, and is a founding member of APA's homosexual issues division.

Lawrence A.
 Kurdek serves on the editorial board of Contemporary Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Psychology.
 Working

Working
Group member
Candace A. McCullough is a lesbian
who was profiled

with her partner Sharon Duchesneau by the Washington Post on March 31, 2002. McCullough and Duchesneau are both deaf; they chose to have Duchesneau artificially inseminated with sperm from a deaf donor, which made it highly likely that that they would have a deaf child. The pair was successful, and now has two hearing-impaired children.

The composition of the Working Group

obviously doesn't lend itself to an image of balance and impartiality. "They've let political activists take over the APA, and they are giving us their own, values-laden 'take' on the issues," according to NARTH President Joseph Nicolosi, director of

HAVING FLEECED THE PREVIOUS
FLOCK, THE SELF. APPOINTED
SHEPHERD MOVES ON, EVER ON THE
ALERT FOR SLEEPING, UNGUARDED
SHEEP.



Thomas Aquinas Psychological Clinic in Encino, California.

The moral of this embarrassing sop to homosexual activists, beside the widespread loss of the APA's credibility, is that Christians cannot and should not depend on the vaunted institutions of this world to tell us how we should live. Let us be forever vigilant for self-appointed shepherds like APA that will do nothing but lead us astray.

do nothing but lead us astray.

After all, we have an undisputed source on which we can depend for the information we need to live our lives in a manner pleasing to God. (John 14:6).

What more do we need?

GUEST OPINION:



Win or lose, it's up to us

By Milton Spotts, pastor Bartahatchie Church, Caledonia

Where were we when Satan attacked, throwing open all the closets that hid the abomination of homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22)? Were we too uncomfortable to even discuss this vile sin. We lost!

What of the battle lines of sexual immorality (Romans 1:24), removal of the Ten Commandments, God out of the Pledge of Allegience, God off our money? Were we in the trenches, but with the dirt covering our indecision and excuses? We lost!

Is the last battle drawing before us today? Satan stands before us with his new banner of war — same sex marriage, a total and complete assault on God's institution of marriage. For this battle, he has been going to and fro the earth (Job 1:7). None of the horrors in the trenches of World War I compares to this attack.

the Lord? Are we armed, prepared, and ready to win through God's Word (Hebrews 4:12)? We can!

Genesis 2:18 (KJV) states, "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:21-22 states, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and

he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."

Do you see the victory in the Word (John 1:1)? God makes woman and brings her to man. It does not read — and will never read — that God made a man and brought him unto Adam the man. God did not give Adam Steve; He gave him Eve. Amen!

Genesis 2:24 states, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Note that the wife is female, not a man. God's plan for marriage is one man for one woman for one lifetime. God says so and that's good enough for me.

Stand up and be bold! Let us put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11), rise from the trenches, and defeat Satan (Luke 4:8). Let it finally be, as in the title of the World War I novel by Erich Maria Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front.

thing? We lost!

Chaplain shares memories of Iraq service

PONTE VEDRA, Fla. (BP) — Noting that America's freedom nearly 230 years ago did not come without loss of life, a former Army chaplain who was with the first troops to enter Baghdad last year said people critical of the war in Iraq should take a few cues from history.

"Go back and look at how many Americans lost their lives for freedom in 1776," Huey Bratton said. "It takes loss of life — and sometimes a lot of it to maintain freedom."

Bratton, who was a chaplain for the 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., spoke about his experiences in Iraq at The Church at Ponte Vedra in the coastal town just outside of Jacksonville, Fla. Bratton is now associate pastor of family life/youth at First Church in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Including the innocent Iraqis who have died since coalition forces entered Iraq in March 2003, Bratton said perhaps, because of the recent "sacrifice" of life, maybe the Iraqis won't ever again have the kind of loss which they've experienced. "They're ready for the challenge," he said.

About the terrorists who seem resolved to oppose democracy in Iraq, Bratton insists they are in the minority. Although there were some Iraqis who wished American forces ill, "the overwhelming majority wanted us there," Bratton said in an interview with the Florida Baptist Witness following his presentation in Ponte Vedra.

Bratton speculated that it is the "natural human desire for freedom" that God places in everyone that has motivated the Iraqi people to welcome the American intervention. Probably the overwhelming majority [of Iraqis] know they are freer than they were. There is no doubt in my mind that we did the right thing."

On behalf of the military still serving in the Middle East, Bratton said their biggest need is to know the American people support them and that the country "stays united to fulfill the cause. I think from a soldier's standpoint, they need to know that their country is unified behind them. When they are over there being shot at every day, they don't need to hear on the news that we're divided on the issue.

"My prayer need would be that our soldiers can see us over here united and supportive for what they are doing, [but] I don't think they are seeing that 100%," Bratton said.

During his presentation—at the Florida church, Bratton showed slides of his experiences while "easing" through the deserts of Kuwait and Iraq on a 21-day road trip to Baghdad.

21-day road trip to Baghdad.
In "civilian" ministry for 11 years after serving in electronic warfare for the Navy, Bratton said he told his wife one night shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks that he wanted to help fulfill the military's need for chaplains by volunteering for service.

Although the war with Iraq was looming, it was by no means a sure thing. It became clear on the grueling trek through the barren desert that "God has a sense of humor," Bratton recounted. "I'm 40 years old ...and the chaplain of a combat arms battalion, which means I have to keep up with a bunch of 17-21-year-old jocks who can run a 12-mile road march in full gear. The only thing I had going for me was that I didn't have to carry a weapon."

Bratton said he baptized 18



are doing, [but] I don't FAITH AMID FIRE — Huey Bratton, a former Army chaplain who served think they are seeing that in Iraq, shows a slide of himself and a Methodist chaplain baptizing a soldier before the push to liberate Iraq. (BP photo by Joni B. Hannigan)

before the war ever began. One slide showed Bratton and another chaplain bending over a makeshift baptistry. Bratton chuckled, recalling when the other chaplain, a Methodist who typically does not support believer's baptism, helped him to immerse one of the soldiers.

Finished for the day, Bratton said he'd already put his uniform back on when another battalion's high-ranking officer, a new believer, asked the chaplain to baptize him. Bratton said the man told him he didn't bring clothes to change into, but that he still wanted to be baptized. Bratton asked him if he wanted to remove his boots.

"No. I figured if they are going to war with me, I might as well baptize them too," the officer replied, according to Bratton. "So he got in front of all these soldiers — boots, desert cammos and all — and we dunked him."

By the time the officer returned to his company headquarters, up to a mile away, Bratton speculated he would be covered with sand and unable to avoid sharing a "tremendous testimony."

Creating an environment for worship also could be a challenge in Kuwait and in Iraq. Bratton found time to hold about a half-dozen services on any given day for six to 10 people.

One slide depicted a soldier

Methodist chaplain baptizing a solphoto by Joni B. Hannigan)

FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST

dropped to one knee, holding a rifle with his head lowered in prayer. "That's the kind of example of Christians over there," Bratton said. "He's on guard, but he's praying. He's poised, he's ready to go at any moment, but he's praying to God."

Bratton said one of the most memorable times he had was of worshiping within the marble walks of Sadaam Hussein's VIP headquarters at the Baghdad airport. Embedded reporters, there to "monitor" the situation, joined the military members for prayer and communion.

"We had reporters get serious with God over there," Bratton said.

Despite his moving experiences overseas on the battlefield, Bratton said his resignation from the Army this past spring was based mainly on belief that God had called him back into life as a civilian minister.

"My heartbeat is not necessarily for soldiers," Bratton said. "My heartbeat is for lost people to come to know Christ and for Christians being all they can be for Christ."

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Guidestone upgrades site

DALLAS (BP) — New and seasoned investors with GuideStone Financial Resources (formerly the Annuity Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) can now utilize the World Wide Web to view online presentations or participate in interactive online seminars for retirement planning. The online and interactive presentations cover such key topics for ministers and church employees as: Enrollment in the Church Retirement "Plan, Advantages of Consolidating Your Investments and How to Know If You Are Invested Appropriately for Retirement. Using these new tools, investors can view the presentations or participate in an interactive seminar in the comfort of their home or office. All that is needed is access to the Internet, a computer with speakers to hear the presentation and Macronnedia Flash Player software that is available as a free download from the online presentation menu. We are excited about these new learning tools and believe they will be a popular resource with Southern Baptist ministers and church employees," said Bob Henry, head of GuideStone's church retirement marketing department. "Not everyone has the time to attend state or associational meetings, but now they can view a presentation at their convenience." For more information on the new service, visit the website at www.guidestone.org or call toll-free (800) 262-0511. SBC messengers meeting in June in Indianapolis approved changing the Annuity Board's name to GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, and authorized use of the new name pending the second vote in June 2005. The agency's headquarters will remain in Dallas.

Looking back

10 years ago

Paul Hill, the former Jackson resident charged with the murders of a doctor and his escort outside a Pensacola, Fla., abortion clinic, represents a violent fringe dragging down the entire anti-abortion movement, says Paul Jones, executive director of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission.

20 years ago

Highland Church, Laurel, starts a starlight citywide crusade that includes NFL quarterback Terry Bradshaw, humorist Jerry Clower, former Miss America Cheryl Prewitt Blackwood, and Elvis' step-brother Rick Stanley.

50 years ago

At a Student Training Union week at Ridgecrest Assembly in North Carolina, high schoolers raise questions about their relationship with Christ. The segregation question was uppermost, followed by questions on dating, dancing in general, and how to overcome shyness.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.

(I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my

Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to

those who believe in his name

(John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for

spiritual guidance.

Correction

In the article, Growing Churches Overflows Gulfshore, on page one of the August 5*issue, Jim Booth was incorrectly identifed as pastor of Birch Hill Church. James Price is pastor. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

In our world of new styles and innovative forms of worship it is not unusual to hear of some church that has a traditional service, or a contemporary service, or a blended worship service. As a general rule a blended service is an effort to bring together in one worship experience some of the old familiar songs and aspects of worship and with some of the new music, fresh thoughts, and melodies. Sometimes, when it is done well, the blended service accomplishes the goal of trying to satisfy everybody's taste. There are other times when it is not done well when it achieves the goal of making everybody mad. In those cases those who love contemporary modern approaches are mad because of the use of the traditional and the traditional folks resent having to tolerate the contemporary approach. Sometimes instead of creating an atmosphere in which everyone can have a meaningful experience with the Lord, it only

sometimes that is the result.

Recently, I could not help but sit with a smile on my heart as I watched a church struggle with a different form of blended service. It was Sunday morning and I was in Ukraine on a mission trip with the Singing Churchmen of Mississippi. The church where they were going to sing and I

develops the kind of atmosphere

that allows all of our bad atti-

tudes to be on display. Of course,

that is not the goal but sadly



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

was going to preach was also going to be observing the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning. There were over morning. 1,000 people in attendance, and was fascinated as they prepared to pass the cup and the bread. As they started to take the cup to the congregation, I noticed that there were some trays filled with the small communion cups to which we are generally accustomed and there were a good number of large silver chalices that were also carried out to the congregation. So as the supper was shared some people were getting a sip from the common cup and others were taking a small plastic cup from a tray to remember His shed blood.

After the service I was asking one of the ministers why they used the two different forms and he explained to me that some of the members, especially the older members, believed that the Lord's Supper was supposed to be taken only in the chalice and so they passed a common cup among the people. Others, possibly motivated by convenience or hygiene, felt that it would be best to have individual cups for the

members. In an effort to meet all the needs of everybody there they provided both the large chalice and the small cups. It was a blended service, if you will.

After the service as I was visiting with some of the people, I commented on the procedure and it was interesting to find out what I probably should have already known that is, the effort to accommodate did not satisfy either group. Folks in each group felt like everybody ought to join in and do it their way. It doesn't take very long and you do not have to travel very far to find that attitude in some people about a variety of church issues. It may involve the songs that are sung or not sung, or the instruments that are used or not used. It also could be related to the time of service, or the place, or the dress, or the time of the offering, or the design of the bulletin. The list can fill this page. So what is a soul to do in an atmosphere that seems to be changing from one day to the next? Whether you are young or old, male or female, black or white, citified or countrified, there is a work of Christ that ought to be manifest among us.

Be focused. By that I mean concentrate on keeping your attitude in line with a Christlike spirit. The exhibiting of a bad attitude is a far worst testimony than a bad song.

Be flexible. Some things about which we get worked up are nothing more than personal preferences. On many issues theology and biblical principles have nothing to do with our action or reaction. It is just what we like or don't like. Our likes and dislikes are not necessarily right or wrong. Where in life is grace? Where is mercy in action? Look at Paul's position when he said, "Be ye kind one to another."

Finally, be faithful. In the midst of all the things with which you may be struggling, have an unswerving faithfulness to the loving Lord Jesus who continues to love and care for you now. When we come to worship it is of utmost importance that we keep in mind that our relationship with Jesus is the issue. It is all about **Him** and not about the hymn. I dare say there is probably not a church in the Convention that this Sunday will sing one song that Jesus sang when He went to worship. That's okay because tunes may change, but our great Savior never does.

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.

NOBTS bivo music class open for enrollment

August 16 begins the fifth of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

The eight courses are: (1) Song Leading; (2) Worship Planning; (3) Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; (4) Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; (5) Hymnology; (6) Music Administration/Staff Relations; (7) Survey of Music Resources (8) Class Voice. These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$100.00.

A \$50.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.



NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The fifth course "Hymnology" will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

Broadmoor Baptist
 Church, Madison — beginning
 August 16 (7-9 p.m.) Jimmy
 McCaleb, Teacher, (H) 601-924-1233.

• Handsboro Baptist Church, Gulfport — beginning August 16 (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

course once a 896-3796. C) 228-

• First Baptist Church, Booneville — beginning August 16 (7-9 p.m.) LuAnne Ford, Teacher, (C) 662-728-6272.

Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian — beginning August 16 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Buddy McElroy, Teacher, (C) 601-681-6615, (H) August 16 (7-9 p.m.).

Hernando Baptist Church,
 Hernando — beginning August
 16 (7-9 p.m.) Barry Tweedy,
 Teacher, (C) 662-429-6361.

• Tri-County Baptist Associational Building, Columbia — beginning August 17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Kenny Adams, Teacher, (C) 601-876-3436.

Meadville Baptist Church,
Meadville — beginning August
17 (6:30-8:30 p.m.) Chuck
McMinn, Teacher, (C) 601-384-5215, (H) 601-384-3717.

• Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale — beginning August 16 (7-9 p.m.) Hugh Plunkett, Teacher, (C) 662-624-2538, (H) 662-627-3571.

• Winston Baptist Associational Building, Louisville — beginning August 16 (7-9 p.m.) Dave Tribble, Teacher, (H) 662-773-3969.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where 8-10 students are interested in enrolling. For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601).292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmccaleb@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Ashland Church, Ashland, conducted an awards ceremony April 4 honoring 2003-04 GA members who had completed projects and learned the GA motto and pledge. Sheri Shoup and Cindy Farese are leaders. Randy Crews, Sr. is pastor.

The children's choirs of Hillcrest Church, Byram, presented the musical Go, Go Jonah! by Kathie Hill in May for Children's Day. John Taylor is pastor.

Topeka Church, Jayess, held VBS June 7-11. The picture was taken during family night. Dale Authement is pastor.

Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, recognized their 1st-6th grade GAs for completing their World Venture and year round activities. Pictured are those participating. Betty Ensign and Melissa Stringer are leaders.

The Mission Friends of Meadowood Church, Amory, held a Teddy Bear Tea May 26. Each child brought teddy bears to be donated to the Sav-A-Life in Amory.

Students from the First Church, Brandon, youth choir surprised their youth minister, Kevin Cooper, for Father's Day. While he was on a trip with graduating seniors they primed, painted, and redecorated his back porch.

Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, completed their first year of the AWANA program on Wednesday evenings. Attendance averaged near 200. Jack Woodard is pastor.

The 5th and 6th grade GAs of Bovina Church, Vicksburg, recently celebrated completing of levels five and six in World Ventures. The GAs also participated during the year in collecting canned foods for the church food pantry.

New Sight Church, Brookhaven, held VBS recently. Enrollment was 92.

Six girls from Ashland Church, Ashland, attended Camp Garaywa during the week of June 14-18. Pictured (from left) are Courtney Hughey, Brittany Wright, Melanie Gross, Marion Autry, Haley Breedlove, and Maggie Lyon.

Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, recently sent a team of 19 to work with First Church of Battle Mountain, Nevada. The team constructed 4 bunk houses for the campground being developed by the church. John Vaughn is pastor.



Mission Friends of Meadowood Church, Amory



Missions Team of Crossroads Church, Pelahatchie



GAs of Ashland Church, Ashland



Children's Choir Participants of Hillcrest Church, Byram



VBS Participants of Topeka Church, Jayess



GAs of Crossroads Church, Pelahatchie



Camp Garaywa Participants of Ashland Church, Ashland



GAs of Bovina Church, Vicksburg



VBS Participants of New Sight Church, Brookhaven



AWANA Participants of Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall



BAPTISTS



GAs of First Church, Purvis



Ebenezer Church VBS Participants, Liberty



RAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko



GAs of Williamsville Church, Kosciusko



GAs of Gunter Road Church, Florence

William W. Man

JUST FOR THE RECORD

These girls were recognized for completing their GA World Venture 5 Program at Gunter Road Church, Florence, in May. Pictured (from left) are Cherlyn Wilhelm, Katelyn Dukes, Kaylyn King, Alana Turner, Rebekah Ramage, Brooke Calhoun, and Victoria Burnham. Leaders were Nita Turner and Tracy Chapman.

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, recently held RA/GA recognition services. Graduating RAs and GAs were Ben East and Sarah Papisan. Jerry East is pastor.

Ebenezer Church, Liberty, held bible school June 21-26. Pictured are the participants.

The GAs of First Church, Purvis, recently celebrated GAs 90th birthday at an awards ceremony and birthday party.

Philadelphia Church, Caseyville, held a noteburning June 13. The church took out a three year loan to pay off the present sanctuary, but it was paid off ahead of schedule and in only two years.

The WOM of Magee's Creek Church, Jayess, had Brenda Rowell speak on the many hats worn by Christian women recently. Pictured (from left) are Lib Bennett, Joe Holmes, Nell Rimes, Nell Yarborough, Hilda Mascair, and Dell Magee Clawson.

The mission team from Shady Grove Church, Batesville, held backyard bible clubs at an apartment complex and the Calvary Church Daycare in Pascagoula July 26-30. The team presented a mission trip program at Calvary Church July 28.

HOMECOMINGS & REVIVALS

Union, Beaumont: Revival, Aug. 15-18, 7 p.m.; Calvary Singers, Tex., conducting services. Wayne Walley, pastor.

Ebenezer, Bassfield: Revival, Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, followed by afternoon service. Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Dunn, evangelist; Charles Jones, music; Jackie Cooke, pastor. For information, call (601) 736-6473.

Sylvarena Church, Raleigh: Revival, Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish meal, noon, and afternoon service. Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Hale, evangelist, Randy McLeod and Wayne Thompson, music; Mike Thompson, pastor.

First, Madison: One-day worship rally, Aug. 15; Sunday, 8:30, 9:45, and 11 a.m.; youth

rally, 5 p.m.; and worship service, 6:30 p.m.; Jerry Pipes, speaker. For information, call (601) 856-6177.

Cascilla, Cascilla: Revival, Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, speaker; Duke and Linda Barnes, music; Thomas Bruce, pastor.

Arkadelphia Church, Bailey: Homecoming, Aug. 15; Sunday School 10 a.m. and 11 a.m worship; fellowship meal following. David Waites, speaker; John R. Koch, pastor. For information, call (601) 737-2013.

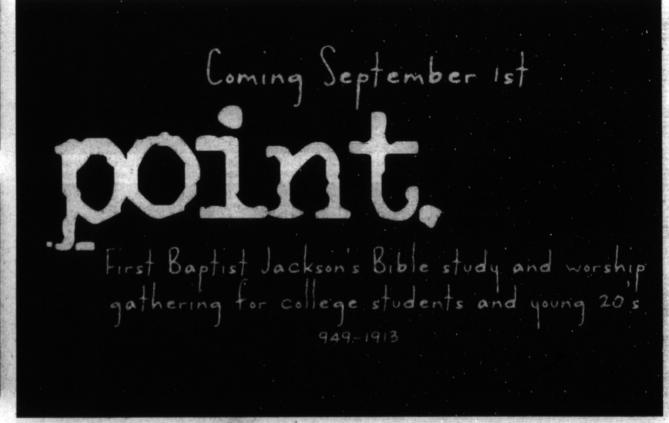
First, Lake: Revival, Aug. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Gordon Sansing, Forest, preaching; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, Rock Bluff, music.



WOM of Magee's Creek Church, Jayess



Philadelphia Church Noteburning, Caseyville



UST FOR THE RECORD

Hillcrest Church, New Albany, held a GA/Acteen

recognition service April 28. Pictured are the girls.



GAs of Hillcrest Church, New Albany



Children Bible Drill Participants of West Ripley, Ripley

Highland Church, Natchez, held VBS May 31-June 4. The enrollment was 197 with an average daily attendance of 138.

West Ripley Church, Ripley, held bible drills recently. Pictured are both the children and youth.

Thrasher Church, Prentiss Association, held VBS June 14-17. Average attendance was 95 with enrollment over 100. Lori Johnson was the director. Lynsol B. Richmond is pastor.

The GAs of Tylertown Church, Tylertown attended

camp at Camp Garaywa June 28 - July 2. Pictured

(from let, front) are Sydney Stogner, Mary Elizabeth Stringer, Laura Lee Dyar, and (back) Taylor Pearce, Hayley Craft, Chancey Harvey, Katie McMichael, and Sarah Breeland.

Kokomo Church, Kokomo, held VBS June 7-11. Pictured are some of the students. Gail Keesler was the director. Glenn Nace is pastor.



GAs of Tylertown Church, Tylertown

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Youth Bible Drill Participants of West Ripley, Ripley



VBS Participants of Thrasher Church, Prentiss



VBS Participants of Highland Church, Natchez

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VBS Participants of Kokomo Church, Kokomo

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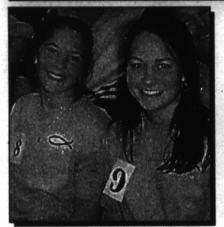
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UST FOR THE \mathbf{R} ECORD



of First Church, Booneville



Robert & Betty Walker

www.mbcb.org



Youth Bible Drill Participants Children Bible Drill Participants of First Church, Booneville

First Church, Marion, sent a volunteer mission team to Seventh Church, Baltimore, Md., to conduct a mission sports clinic June 21-24. Pictured (from left, front) are Trey Jordan, David Curry, Mary Jordan, Leigh Ann Vanlandingham, (back) Wright Hobgood, Philip Jordan, Zane Cradic, Jeremy Barnacastle, Cori Rowe, and Steve Jordan, pastor.

Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, honored Robert E. Walker and his wife Betty with a special day on July 4 celebrating their 22nd anniversary as pastor.

Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, held VBS May 24-28. Robert E. Walker is pastor and Gary Kennedy is the music director.

Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, honored their graduating seniors with a reception and presentation of bibles.

First Church, Booneville recently participated in state bible drills. Pictured (from left) are Suzanne Ford and Andrea Hawkins. Also pictured (from left) are Elizabeth West, Victoria Scott, Clint Hawkins, and Grant Vandiver. All the participants passed.

Navilla Church, McComb, held childrens and youth bible



Graduating Seniors of Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assn.

Pictured (from left) children are Spencer Yarbrough, Samantha Whittington, Cobi Mann, Charleen Chandlee, leader. Pictured (from left) youth Berry, are the Magan Jessica Boatwright, Kristen Sudduth, and adult participant Sunshine Foy. All four youth advanced to state



VBS Participants of Bellevue Church, **Pontotoc Association**

Bellevue Church, Pontotoc Association, held VBS recently. Margie Douglas was the





VBS Participants of Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assn.



Youth Bible Drill Participants of Navilla Church, McComb



Children Bible Drill Participants of Navilla Church, McComb



Mission Team of First Church, Marion

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UST FOR THE RECORD



Brown

Church, Louin, hosted an appreciation reception for Ida Brown June 27. She has served music

director for 45 years as well as being instrumental in all the needs of the church.

Katie Cole was recently licensed to the chaplain ministry by Twin Lakes Church, Madison. She is a student at Southwestern Seminary. Pictured (from left) are Jim Didlake, MBCB, Marlene Didlake, Robin Keels, MBCB, Cole, and Hugh Smith, pastor.

The GAs and Acteens of First Church, Olive Branch, had their recognition service in May 2004 to recognize all who had completed World Ventures and Missions Quest for the year. Pictured are the girls.

Pilgrims Rest Church, rystal Springs, held Crystal Powercamp, Fight the Good Fight, June 28-July 1. Eightyseven children and 37 staffers attended. Nine decisions

were made. Powercamp attendees included seven churches from Mississippi and Louisiana and the Copiah Association.

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, held baby dedication on Fathers Day. Pictured are the participants.



Jim & Marlene Didlake, Robin Keels, Katie Cole, & Hugh Smith

Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, held VBS recently. Twelve children accepted Christ. Jerry East, pastor, and Doug Hubbard, youth pastor, surprised the children and parents with sumo wrestling match.

The youth of Pilgrims Rest Church, Crystal Springs, attended Summer Xtreme Camp, sponsored NewSong, July 12-16 in Panama City Beach, Fla. Over 1,700 youth attended.



Williamsville Church VBS, Kosciusko



Youth of Pilgrims Rest Church, Crystal Springs





GAs and Acteens of First Church, Olive Branch



Children of Pilgrims Rest Church, Crystal Springs



Williamsville Church Baby Dedication, Kosciusko

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Poplar

Church, Providence Grenada County, held VBS June 7-11. Pictured are the children that attended.

Children of Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, recently participated in the state bible drill in Brookhaven. Pictured are Corvan Day and Denise Collier. Leaders are Jeanette Tisdale and Deborah Collier.

First Church, Okolona, conducted Rickshaw Rally in VBS with 178 persons going on the far-east trip to find the Son of God.

Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook, presented pastor Curtis Roland and his wife, Lanita, with a trip to the Holy Land. The trip will be in March 2005 with the Carroll Roberson Ministries. Presenting the cer-tificate of behalf the church body is DeWayne Ervin.

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, held VBS June 21-25. Total enrollment was 254 with an average attendance of 196. Barbara Ann Ladner was the director. Shannon Marshall is pastor.

Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, held a groundbreaking ceremony May 29 for the new fellowship hall. A fundraiser auction followed for bake goods. Several former pastors were present.

West Heights Church, Pontotoc recently held VBS. The theme was Rickshaw Rally Racing to the Son. Pictured are Stephen Evans, Hanah Farris, Braden Duke, and Belinda Young. David Hamilton is pastor.

A sign dedication service was held June 6 at Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg. The new church sign was given in memory of Marion D. and Madge W. Copeland by their children. Pictured (from left) are Robbie Britt, pastor, and children Donna Wilkinson, James C. Copeland, and Betty Slocum.

Mt. Horeb, Church, Collins, ended the VBS July 4 with a commencement service and fellowship. They had a cookout and fireworks display.

Youth from Trinity Church, Fulton, spent the day at Dismal's Canyon in Alabama July 10.

East Union Summit, will host the Providentials Quartet Aug. 15 at 5:45 p.m. For information and directions, call (601)

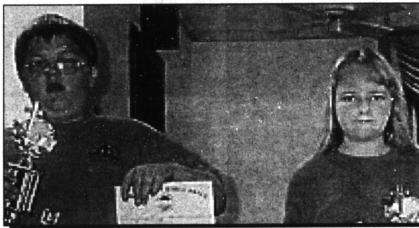
783-2418.

Church, First Jackson, reconvenes Gathering Grief Aug. 19, 6:30 p.m., in the Christian Life Center Dining Room. This is "A Place to Safe Your Explore



949-1907.

Personal Grief." For VBS Participants of West Heights, Pontotoc



Church,

Corvan Day & Denise Collier



VBS Participants of First Church, Okolona



Lanita & Curtis Roland and DeWayne Ervin



VBS Participants of Mt. Horeb Church, Collins



Youth of Trinity Church, Fulton



Groundbreaking of Beacon Hill Church, Hattiesburg



Sign Dedication Service at Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg



VBS Participants of Providence Church, Grenada County



VBS Participants of Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Act Right

1 Peter 1:13-16, 22-25; 2:1-3, 11-12

By Mo Baker

As parents of four small children, my wife and I are constantly reminding them of the importance of good behavior. We want them to be obedient to their parents and other adults, freat others with respect, always tell the truth, and, in general, conduct themselves in ways that would reflect positively on our family. Our objective through such teaching is that our children would grow up to

become responsible adults.

The audience to whom Peter wrote his epistle was young in their faith. In effect, they resembled little children regarding their spiritual maturity. Like a parent, Peter was concerned that these believers understand how God expects them to live and commit themselves to fulfilling God's expectations. Let's discover Peter's imperatives for acting right.

I. BE HOLY (1 PE 1:13-16).

The basis for believers' living holy lives was the saving work of God (1 Pe 1:1-12). Out of reverence

for what God has accomplished for us, we should be holy. Peter urged his readers to set their hope on God's grace by preparing their minds for action and by being selfcontrolled. Without such disciplined thinking, their hope would not become a reality. Additionally, Peter demands that God's people be holy. The Christian life is not passive. Believers must choose daily to obey God and walk away from sin. The pattern for believers holiness comes from God Himself, who is holy. To be holy is to set oneself apart from evil and for dedication to God.

II. BE LOVING (1 PE 1:22-25).

Genuine conversion is demonstrated by showing love for fellow

believers. Peter's language indicated that believers have been saved in order to love one another. Love must be from the heart, or sincere in its expression toward others. Peter's thoughts on Christian love convey permanence, endurance, and incorruptibility (Schreiner 2003, 94). The

Baker command to love is grounded in the saving grace of God. In contrast to our earthly lives, which will one day end, the salvation that believers experience is permanent, since God birthed us with an "imperishable seed" (1 Pe 1:23). Because God has saved believers through His living and enduring word, believers must choose to love one another. Our salvation will never expire, and neither will God's command for His people to love one another.

III. BE MATURE (1 PE 2:1-3).

Peter exhorted his readers to cast aside everything in their lives that quenches a spirit of love for others. Deliberately laying sins aside is not a one-time event; it must be practiced daily. The specif-

ic sins that Peter identified are those that destroy social relation-ships among God's people. "Malice" may refer to general wickedness or ill-will toward others. "Deceit" and "hypocrisy" are to be avoided because they both allow falsehood to enter into the Christian community. "Envy" is the desire to advance oneself at the expense of others, and "slander" refers to false stories or even insinuations about someone else. Peter professed that maturity in Christ occurs when we begin to hunger for God's Word, which is like good milk. Just as babies desire to have milk, believers are commanded to crave the Word of God, which can nurture their souls and grow their faith. A continuous longing for God's Word validates one's salvation in Christ. Hungering and thirsting for more of God's Word is reasonable for believers, since we have experienced how refreshing God is. The desire to grow spiritually comes from experiencing God's kindness, which leaves genuine believers wanting more.

IV. BE HONORABLE (1 PE 2:11-12). After addressing the relation-

ship believers have with each other, Peter elaborated on the way believers relate to the world. Believers are like foreigners in this world because of their relationship to Jesus Christ. Peter did not identify specific sins with which believers struggle; instead he mentioned that believers are to shun any fleshy desire that destruction. seeks their Christians are in a daily battle against sin and evil desires. Winning this battle is imperative, because unbelievers are watching. Peter commanded his readers to live exemplary lives that will cause unbelievers to take notice. "Peter's hope was that unbelievers will be compelled to admit that the lifestyle of believers is morally beautiful, and this admission will bring them to sav-ing faith so that God will be glorified on the day of judgment" (Schreiner 2003, 119).

Acting properly involves believers being holy, loving, mature and honorable. Are you going to act right?

Baker is BSU Director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Tripped up by Pride 2 Kings 20

By Mary Carraway

The earliest sin ever recorded was rooted in pride, and it has plagued humankind ever since. Pride in accomplishment, pride in possessions is not only prevalent but even encouraged in our nation today. Pride is the opposite of humility, the virtue God most wants us to cultivate in our spiritual lives.

HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER (2 KINGS 20:1-3)

"In those days" (v. 1) most likely meant this episode occurred before Sennacharib's invasion of Jerusalem. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, was terminally ill. Through Isaiah the prophet, the Lord warned him to put his affairs in order because he would not recover.

A man's heart is often revealed at such times of devastating circumstances.

Hezekiah, one of Judah's best kings, trusted in the Lord

Carraway God of Israel" (18:5). It is not surprising, therefore, to see his reaction to this announcement-he prayed. Turning his face to the wall was a simple attempt at privacy as he turned his heart to God. With tearful, deep emotion he spoke directly to Yahweh, calling Him by His covenant name. He reminded the Lord of his faithfulness and wholeheartedness. He had sought to serve the Lord with his whole being and had done "what is good" (v. 3). We have already studied one of Hezekiah's eloquent prayers (19:15-19). An intimacy with God like Hezekiah's does not come on demand. It comes from the habitual practice of seeking the presence of God in prayer and being humble in His presence. It comes from a

faithful and wholehearted trust.

HEZEKIAH'S HEALING (2 KINGS 20:4-11)

Hezekiah's and his tears moved God to heal him. Isaiah had not left the inner courtyard before God sent him back with the life-

He had heard the king's prayer.
The verb "heard" implies not just hearing, but responding. Not only would He heal the king and add 15 more years to his life, but He would also deliver him from the Assyrians. God would do even more than Hezekiah had asked for "My sake and for the

sake of my servant David" (v. 6). Hezekiah was healed miraculously and medicinally with a fig poultice, an ancient treatment for infected sores. Requesting a "sign" that God would do what He had promised was common among the Israelites. Signs were mira-cles that signified that what God had said He would indeed do. Hezekiah was given a choice of two signs. He chose the one

absolutely definitive. The shadow moved backwards. Only God could do that.

HEZEKIAH'S PRIDE (2 KINGS 20:12-21)

Pride is misplaced and sinful when we lose our focus on God and take the credit for personal accomplishments and possessions. Even in our churches, we may emphasize "our" accomplishments and activities rather than giving glory to God. Pride is easer to recognize than to define. It is easer to see in others that in oneself.

Second Chronicles 32:25 says that Hezekiah's "heart was proud" and he "didn't respond according to the benefit that had come to him." After his miraculous recovery, he received a delegation from the king of Babylon. Perhaps flattered by this attention, perhaps hoping to impress them, perhaps seeking a political alliance, Hezekiah gave them a guided tour of his cap-ital, his treasuries, and all that he possessed.

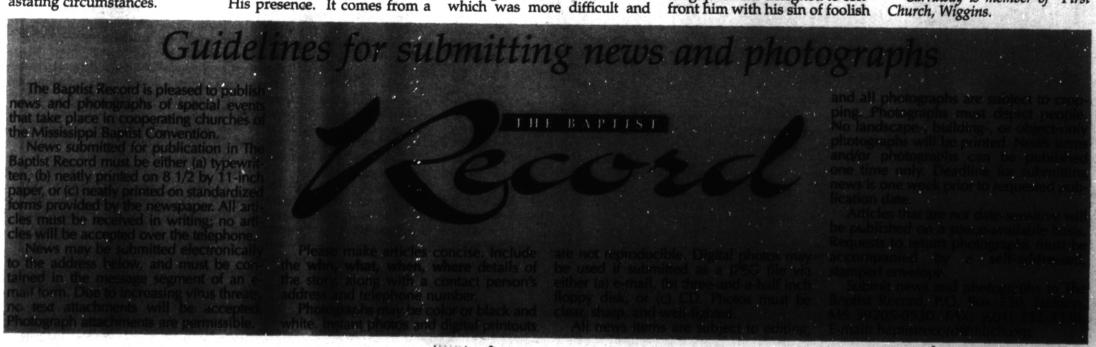
God sent Isaiah to ask the king questions designed to con-

pride. God's purpose was redemptive. To correct a problem, one must first recognize it. A second purpose was to reveal its consequences. To "Hear the word of the Lord" (v.16) was to accept God's discipline. One day all the riches of Judah would by carried off by the Babylonians. In a little over a century, nothing would be left. Hezekiah's response is some-what difficult to interpret, but 2 Chronicles assures us that "he humbled himself."

It's hard to overlook the similarities of David and Hezekiah. Both were godly kings, wholehearted in their relationship with God. Both sinned. Both were rebuked by God through prophets. Both suffered the conse-quences, and both accepted the Lord's correction.

Much that is worthwhile can be found in Hezekiah. His many accomplishments are detailed in 2 Chronicles 32:27-30. God forgave Hezekiah. We must also. Even the best of us can and will be tripped up by the sin of pride.

Carraway is member of First



Baptist vols reach out to Pittsburg's lost

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and exercise your Bible
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The same letter is substituted
throughout the puzzle. Solve
by trial and error. Answer to
last week's puzzle: Haggai 2:5

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Hands-on missions opportunities continued in full swing this summer as Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) volunteers traveled to Pittsburgh, Pa., for MissionsFEST June 20-26, and FamilyFEST June 23-26.

FamilyFEST June 23-26.

Approximately 165 volunteers, including 27 families, came together from 12 states to help with Backyard Bible clubs, surveys, block parties, light construction, landscaping, repairs, prayerwalking, and food preparation at a children's camp. Some volunteers even got to plant and pick vegetables on an eight-acre food farm for the Pittsburgh Food Bank. In all, there were 15 different ministry sites.

Bruce and Melanie Ward, along with sons Evan, age 14, Forrest, age 12, and 5-year-old daughter Madeline, flew from Prattville, Ala., to participate in their second FamilyFEST. Following a great experience at FamilyFEST in San Antonio in 2003, the Wards were eager to serve again as a family.

"We feel it's very important to teach our children about missions, about giving their lives to serve others and to serve our Lord," Melanie Ward said. "There's no better way to do that than to model missions to them, to show them by example how to minister to others and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We are just carrying out what the Lord has asked us to do."

The Wards helped lead music and crafts and presented Bible stories and the plan of salvation to about 15 children at three Backyard Bible clubs at the home of a member of Lakeside Church in McMurray, Pa. Their son, Evan, also brought his puppet ministry to entertain the children.

"When I see my kids painting pots with other kids, or having kids sit in their laps while Bruce and I read Bible stories, I am reminded that missions work is the greatest thing in the whole world I could do



OPEN AIR STUDY — Bruce and Melanie Ward, members at First Church, Prattville, Ala., lead Backyard Bible clubs during Pennsylvania FamilyFEST June 23-26. (BP photo)

with my kids," Ward said. "It's more important than soccer practice, choir practice ... that's what I need to be doing.

"Children need to see their mom and dad setting an example of helping and serving others. As parents, that's what we are here for ... to teach our children to live out their purpose in life, to love others and see others through Christ's eyes," she added. "This is the legacy we want to pass along."

pass along."

The Wards also spent several afternoons helping prepare for Vacation Bible School at Lakeside Church, where Larry and Melanie Hart, Mission Service Corps volunteers with the North American Mission Board, are members and Larry serves as associate pastor. Melanie Hart said it was exciting and encouraging to see how God used volunteers in Pittsburgh throughout the week.

"We have had ongoing outreach efforts and prayerwalking in this area for years, but until this weekend, there seemed to be little progress," she said. "MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST have been incredible."

Hart added that this opportunity also helped increase awareness of "how challenging it is to reach people for Christ up here."

ing it is to reach people for Christ up here."

Both the need and the opportunities are great in Pittsburgh. According to Lamar Duke, associational missionary for the Baptist Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania, there are three million people in the association, which covers nine counties. An estimated two million are unchurched, and many who are affiliated with a church do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"MissionsFEST and FamilyFEST were a real encouragement to many churches in our area because it was the first time they had volunteers, especially out-of-state volunteers," said Carla Lahey, a USC-2 volunteer with NAMB who works with Duke in the association. "Several of these churches, like Zion Hills Full Gospel, which was one of the ministry sites, are just recently affiliated with Southern Baptists and were shocked that people would actually come to help them."

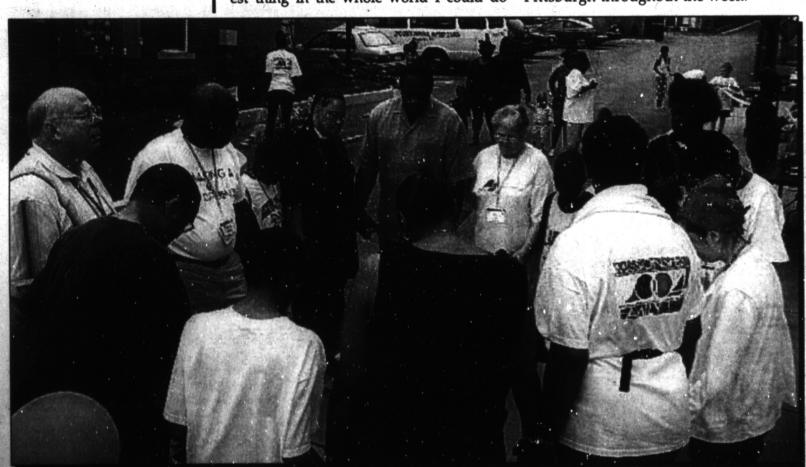
Penny Ellis and her daughters, Imani

Penny Ellis and her daughters, Imaniage 14, Nailah age 12, and Aisha age 11, were among a group of volunteers from Green Forest Community Church in Decatur, Ga. They served at Zion Hills Full Gospel Church. They witnessed, did surveys, and issued invitations to a block party, which attracted around 75 people from the area, resulting in 24 known professions of faith.

Adam Kinsel, pastor of Zion Hills Church, expressed gratitude through tears and said, "I am moved beyond words that so many folks would come so

"It was great for our kids to see how needed and appreciated they were," said Ellis, who serves as the African American coordinator for Georgia WMU. "FamilyFEST was a wonderful time with my daughters of bonding, teamwork and increased awareness of missions instead of just hearing about it and praying for missions."

For more information on WMU's FamilyFEST or MissionsFEST opportunities, visit www.wmu.com, or call (205) 991-4097.



STARTING WITH PRAYER — Members of Zion Hills Full Gospel Church in Pittsburg, Pa., join hands to pray with FamilyFEST volunteers from Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas during the block party that was part of the Woman's Missionary Union event on June 23-26. (BP photo)